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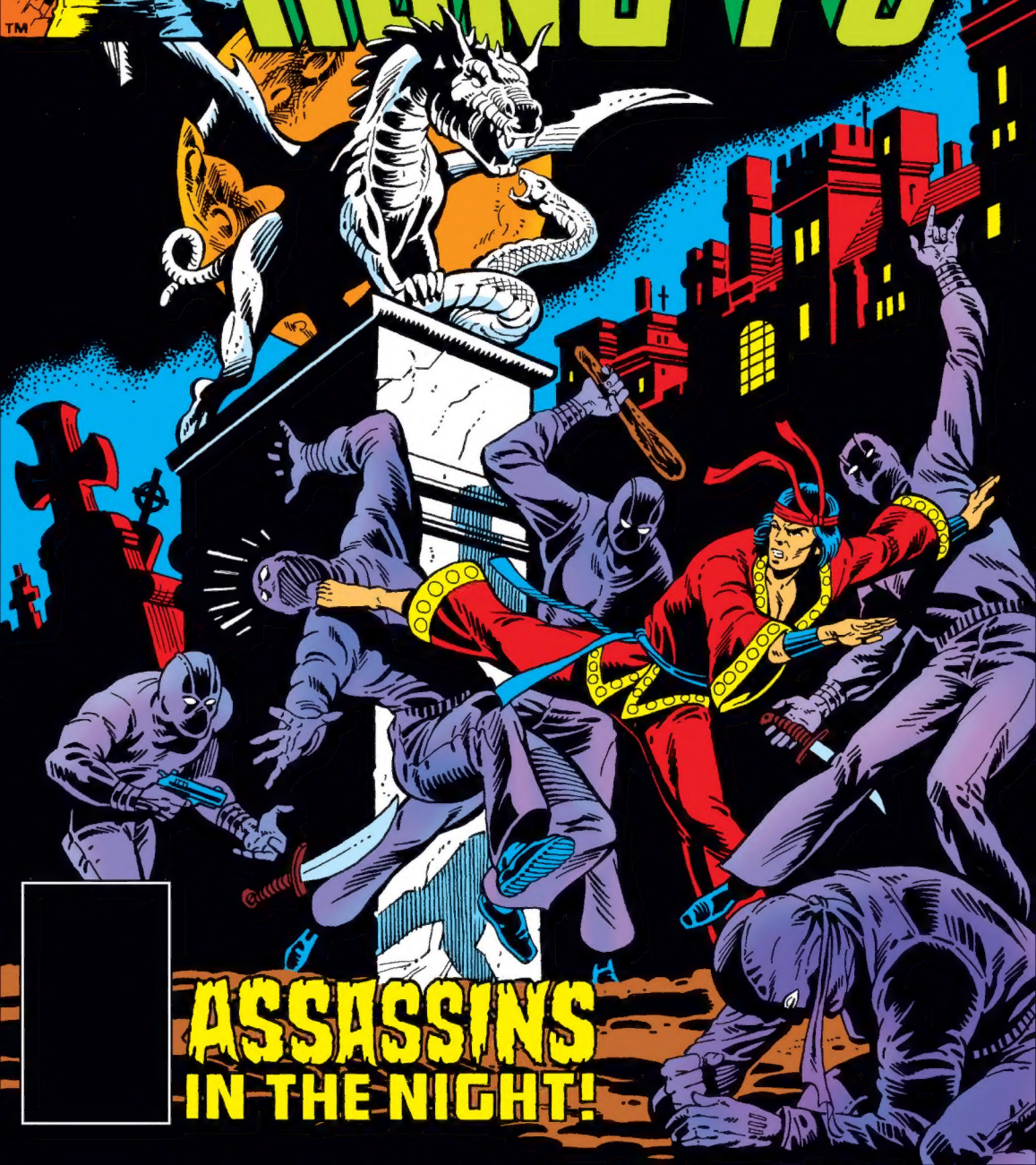
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THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI.

MASTER OF KUNG FU

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TM



ASSASSINS
IN THE NIGHT!

"Call me Shang-Chi, as my **father** did, when he raised me in the vacuum of his Honan, China retreat. I learned many things from my father: that my name means 'The Rising and Advancing of a Spirit,' and that my body could be forged into a living weapon through the discipline of kung fu. Since then, I have learned that my father is **Dr. Fu Manchu**, the most insidiously evil man on Earth... and that to **honor** him would bring nothing but **dishonor** to the spirit of my **name**."

Stan Lee PRESENTS: MASTER OF KUNG FU!®

Featuring supporting characters created by SAX ROHMER

PETER B. GILLIS
WRITER

GENE DAY
ARTIST

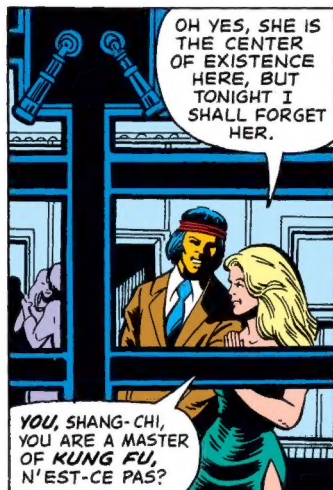
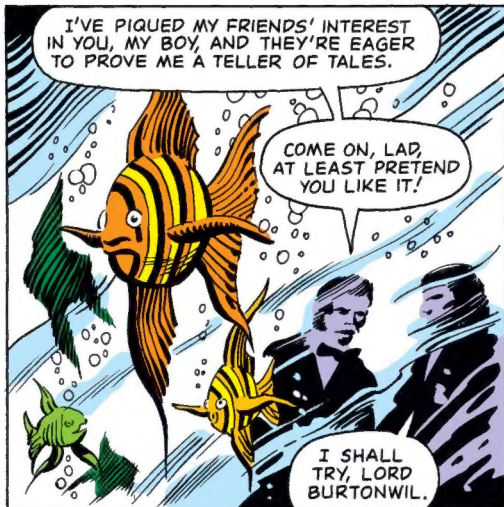
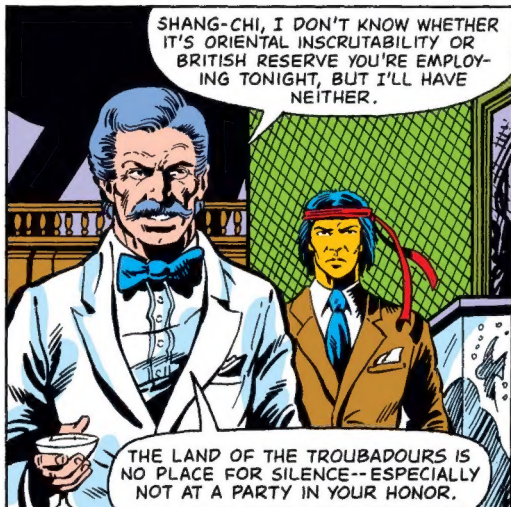
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LETTERER

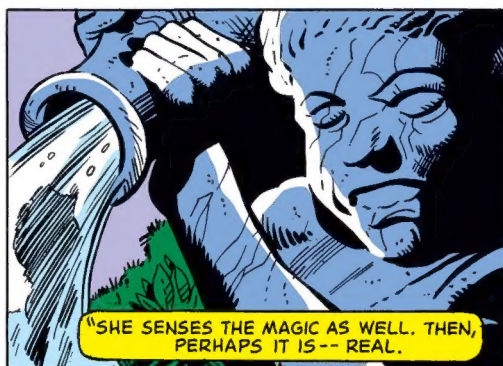
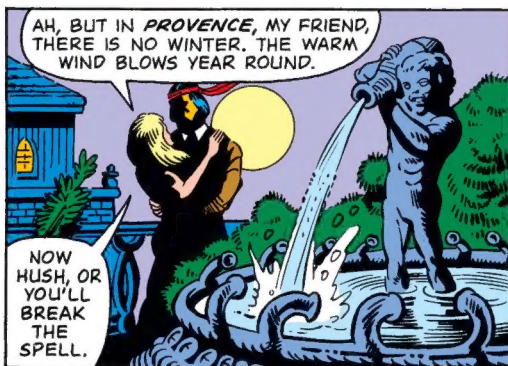
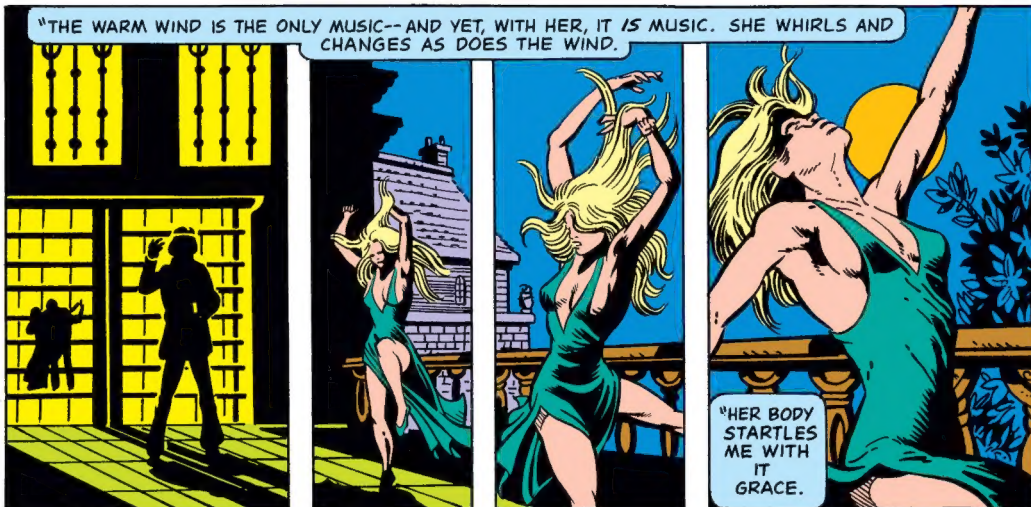
BOB SHAREN
COLORIST

JIM SALICRUP
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JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF







YES, ANTON, I WOULD PREFER THAT YOU STAY WHILE I SPEAK WITH OUR GUEST.

AS YOU WISH, MADAME. BUT I ASSURE YOU HE IS **NO DANGER** TO YOUR PERSON.

AND I TRUST YOUR ASSURANCES, ANTON, BUT **STAY**.

MONSIEUR SHANG-CHI, I AM DAME RENÉE DE PEYRAUD. I AM GLAD YOU HAVE HONORED MY INVITATION.

"**M. PAULVE** HAS TOLD YOU OF THE SABOTAGE HERE AT THE REFINERY. I SHALL TELL YOU MORE.

"I SHALL TELL YOU OF **IDIC--INTER-NATIONAL DATA INTEGRATION AND CONTROL**. THEY ARE A CARTEL-- DETERMINED TO MANAGE THE WORLD ECONOMY-- BY ANY MEANS AVAILABLE."

RECENTLY, THEY MADE AN OFFER TO REORGANIZE OUR COMPUTER SYSTEM. I TURNED IT DOWN.

WITH THEIR COMPUTERS, THEIR SOFTWARE, THEY COULD MANIPULATE OUR OUTPUT TO SERVE THEIR MASTER PLAN. THEY WERE NOT PLEASED BY MY DECISION.

"IN THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED, WE WERE SUBJECT TO NUMEROUS ACCIDENTS WITH OUR **DATA NET**."

"KNOWING THE SOURCE OF THESE INCIDENTS, I DECIDED TO--

FERME
INTERVIEW WITH

"-- SHUT THE REFINERY DOWN-- RATHER THAN ALLOW THEM TO INFILTRATE FURTHER."

IDIC LIKED THIS ACTION EVEN LESS, MONSIEUR.

I NOW FEAR FOR MY LIFE.

"I HAVE ASKED THAT MY EXECUTIVE PERSONNEL CARRY SIDEARMS... AS ANTON DEMONSTRATES."

"BUT THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. I WISH YOU, SHANG-CHI, TO AID ME IN KEEPING MYSELF ALIVE."

YOUR PAYMENT WILL BE MOST GENEROUS, SHANG-CHI.

I SHALL MAKE ARRANGEMENTS ON MADAME'S BEHALF.



BEFORE YOU DECIDE, SHANG-CHI, ANTON AND I FEEL YOU SHOULD HEAR **US**, AS WELL!



WE BOTH FEEL THAT DAME PEYRAUD IS **DELUDED** CONCERNING THIS IDIC BUSINESS. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE IS NOT IN DANGER.

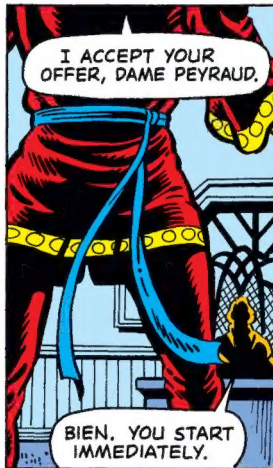


CLOSING THE REFINERY HAS THROWN HUNDREDS OUT OF WORK. AND SOME ARE NOT ABOVE REVENGE-- EVEN **VIOLENCE**.



IF MADAME FELT HERSELF SAFE, THEN PERHAPS WE COULD CONVINCE HER TO **REOPEN** THE GATES. SHANG-CHI--?

I-- SHALL TRY, LUCIANE.



I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER, DAME PEYRAUD.

BIEN. YOU START IMMEDIATELY.



"THIS WOMAN IS A **MANDARIN**. SHE DICTATES, SHE RULES, SHE USES.

"I HAVE DEFENDED ONE MANDARIN BEFORE, MUCH TO MY SORROW: MY **FATHER**. I SHALL MAKE NO ERRORS THIS TIME.



"IF SHE IS EN-DANGERED, I WILL PROTECT HER.



"IN THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE THERE CAN BE NO EVIL.



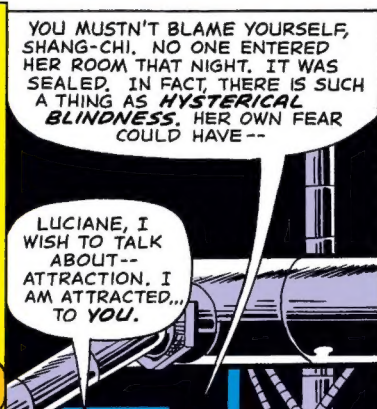
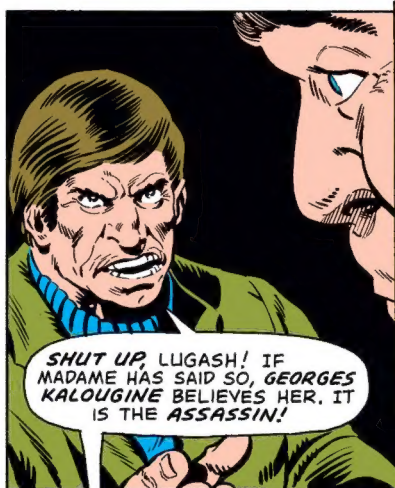
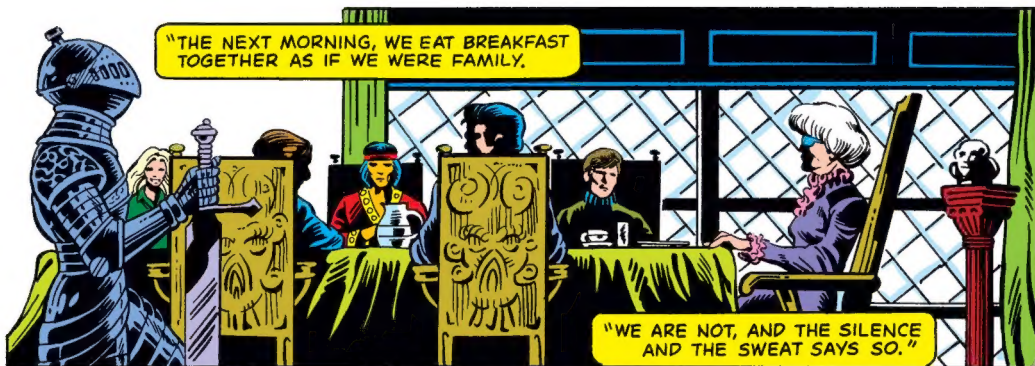
"IF ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS VIGILANCE AND DEFENSE--



"I SHALL PERFORM THOSE FUNCTIONS--



"--AS BEST I CAN.





"I TURN AWAY, FOR HER SILENCE SAYS MUCH.

NO, SHANG-CHI. WAIT FOR MY WORDS.



YOU THINK THAT I AM AFRAID TO LOVE YOU. YOU ARE **WRONG**. BUT I SHALL NEVER BE TURNED ASIDE BY LOVE.



I MUST FOLLOW MY OWN PATH THROUGH LIFE, OR I SHALL BE LOST. IF YOU CAN LOVE ME ALONG THE PATH, I REJOICE. BUT IF YOU SEEK TO TURN ME FROM MY PATH, I SHALL TEAR AWAY FROM YOU.



"I, TOO, ONCE BELIEVED IN-- PATHS.

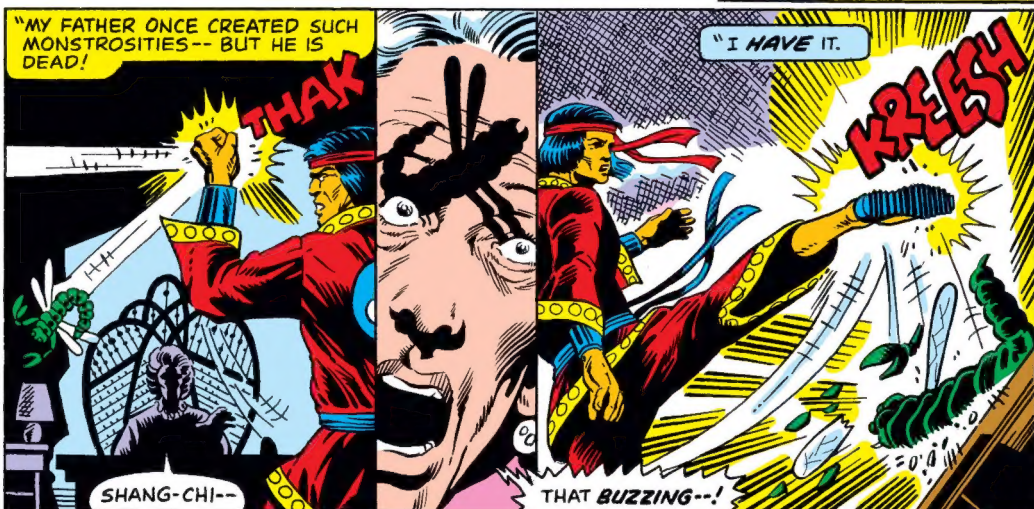
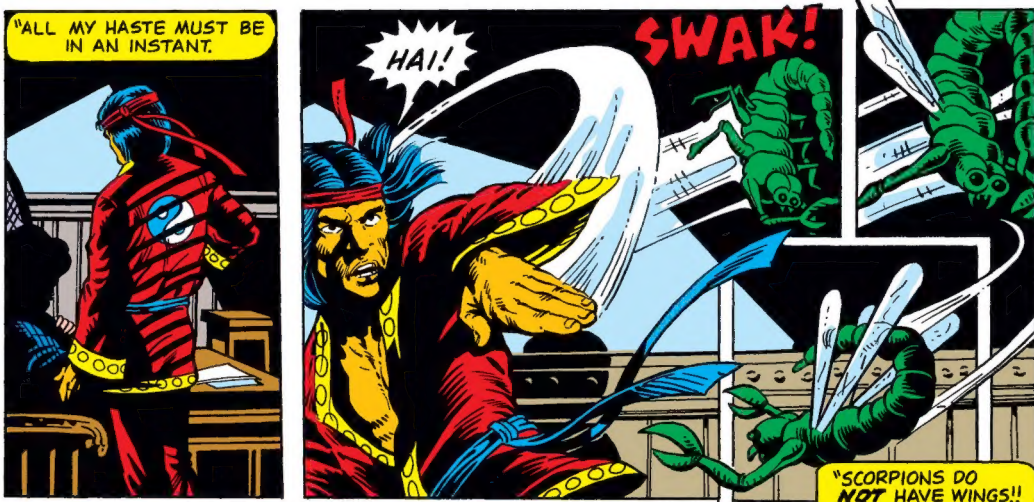
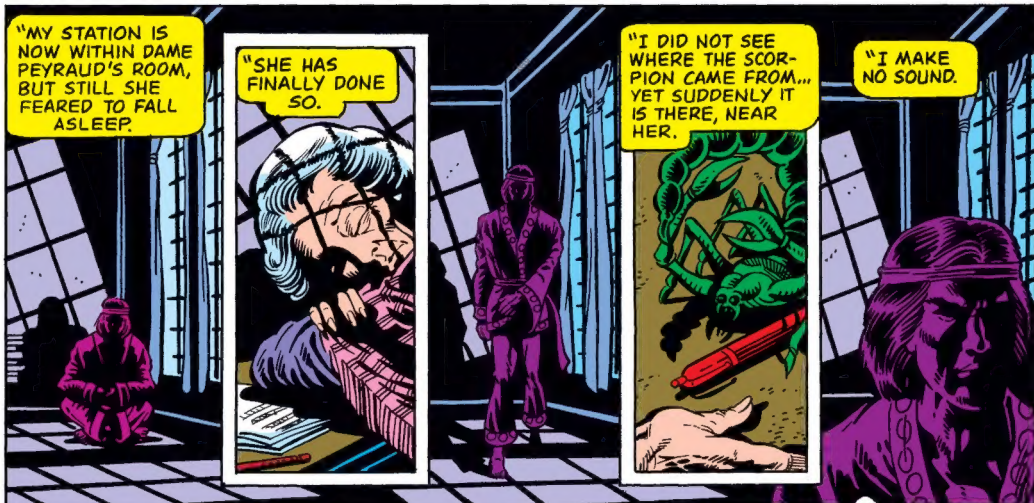
CAN YOU BEAR IT, SHANG-CHI? CAN YOU BEAR TO BE **USED--** AS I AM USING YOU?

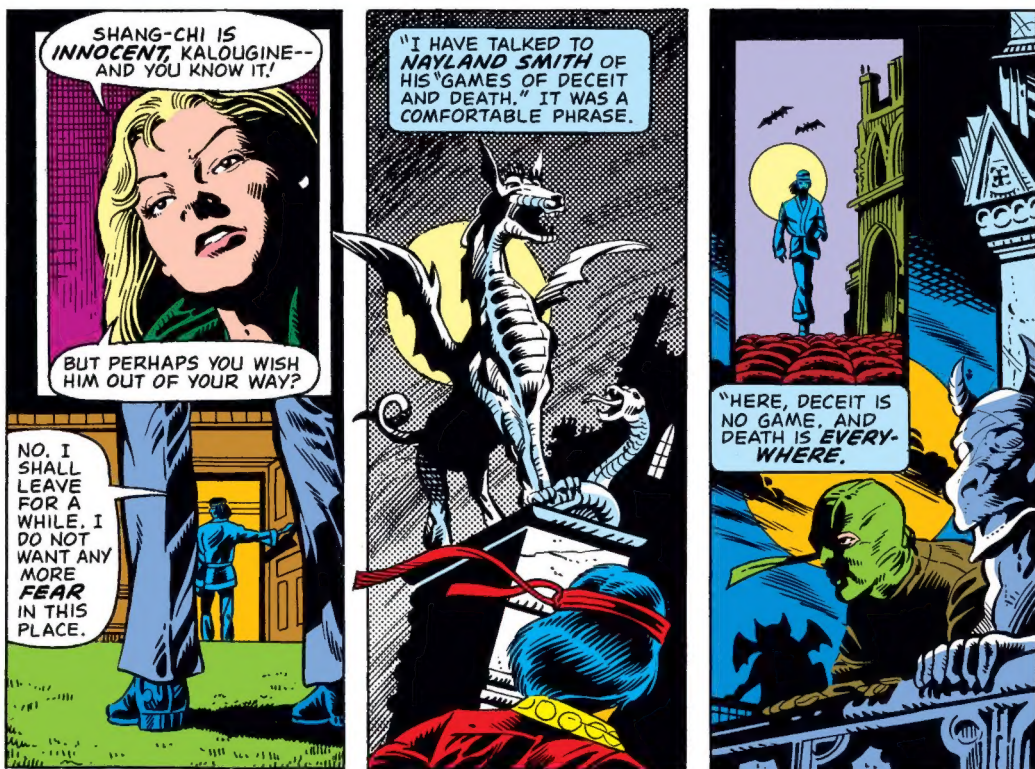


YES.

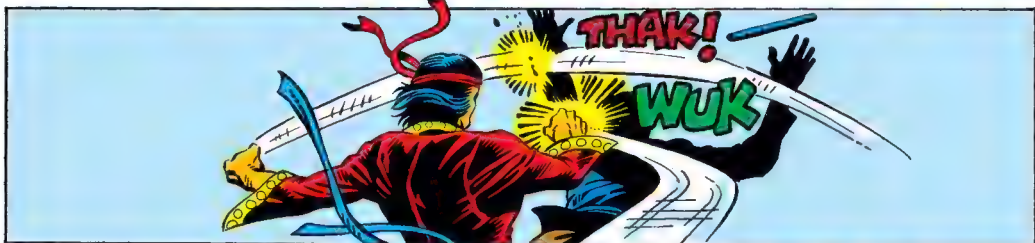
THEN I AM GLAD.











"THE ASSASSIN.?"

WHY
DID
YOU DO
THIS?

YOU SHOULD
KNOW. LUCIANE, OF COURSE.
I **LOVED** HER, WANTED TO
MARRY HER. BUT SHE WOULD
NEVER COMMIT HERSELF. SO I
WAITED-- WHAT ELSE COULD
I DO? THEN **YOU** CAME,
AND SHE WENT TO
YOU--

YOU
ARE **NOT**
THE
ASSASSIN.



I KNEW YOU WERE
INNOCENT, M'SIEU.
I USED YOU AS
BAIT-- IN THE
TRAP.

I DISAGREE, M'SIEU.
HE **IS** THE ASSASSIN.
HE **LIES** TO YOU.

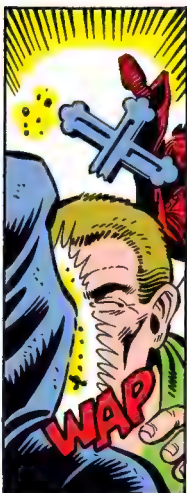
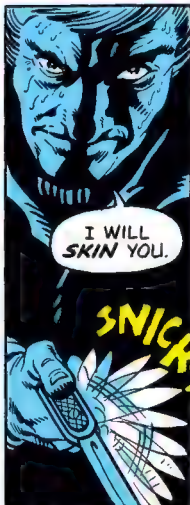
KALOUGINE!

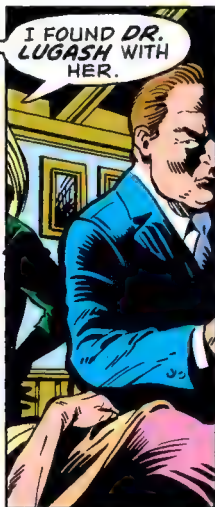
I **APOLOGIZE.**
BUT I HAVE SUCCEEDED.
THE ASSASSIN **DIES.**

THE ASSASSIN
WILL NOT DIE HERE.
AND NEITHER WILL
ANTON.

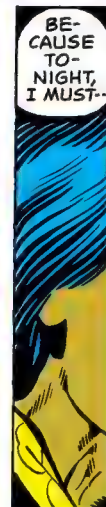
SO! HE'S WON YOU OVER,
HAS HE?

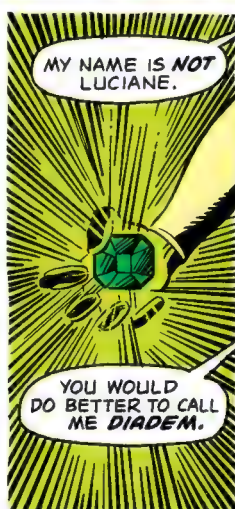
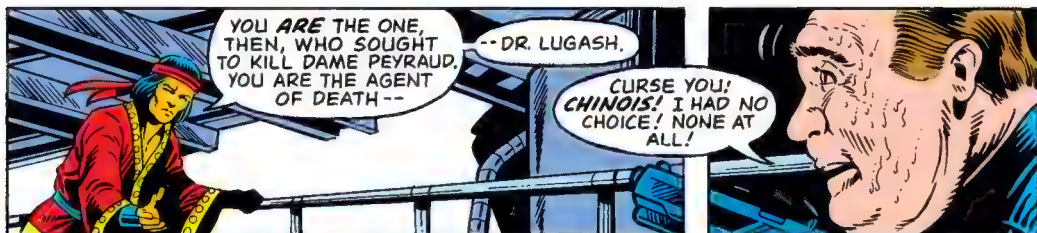
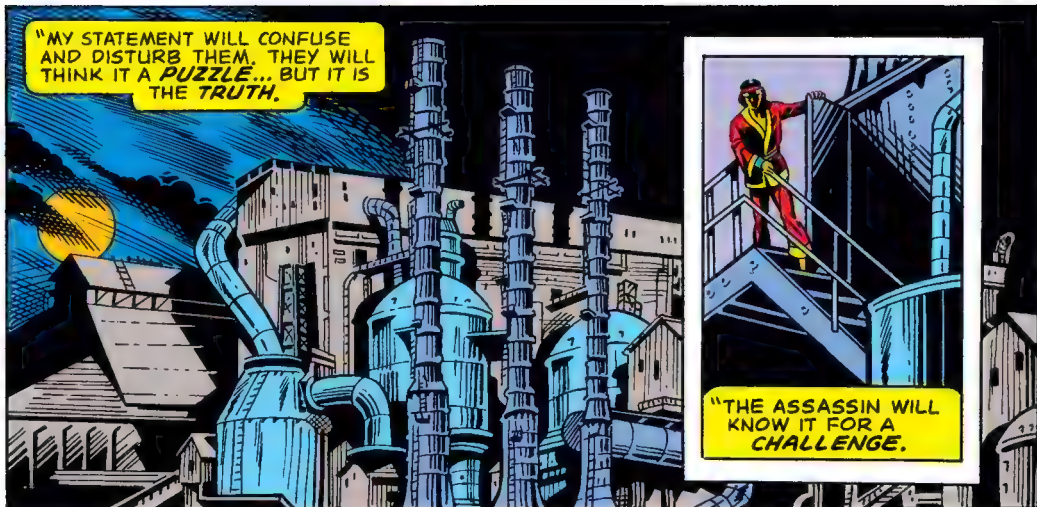
**THEN YOU
BOTH DIE!**

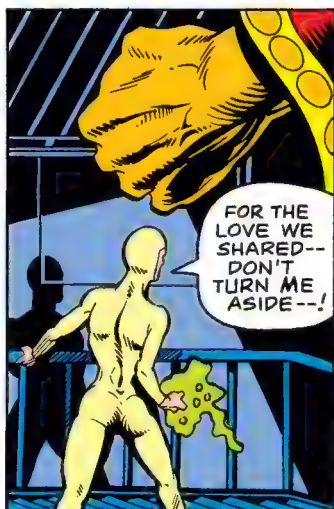
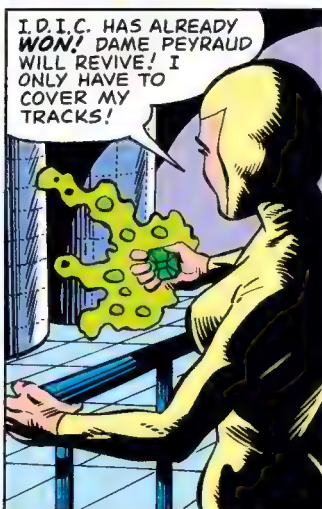
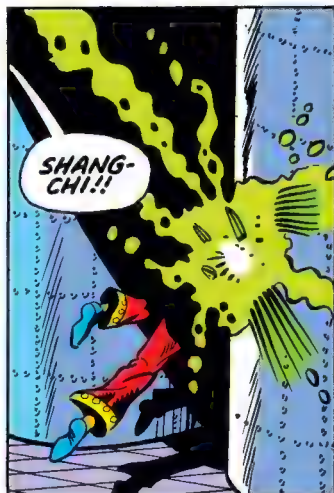
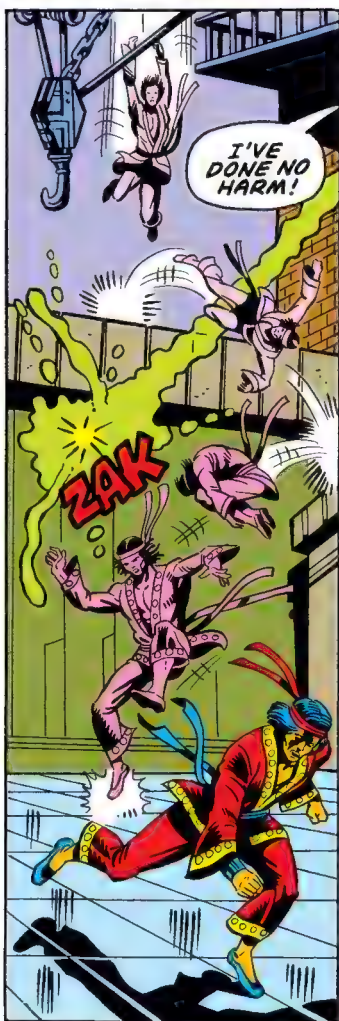
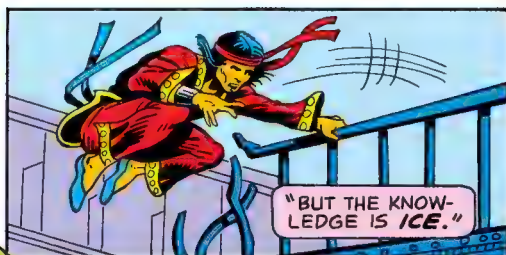


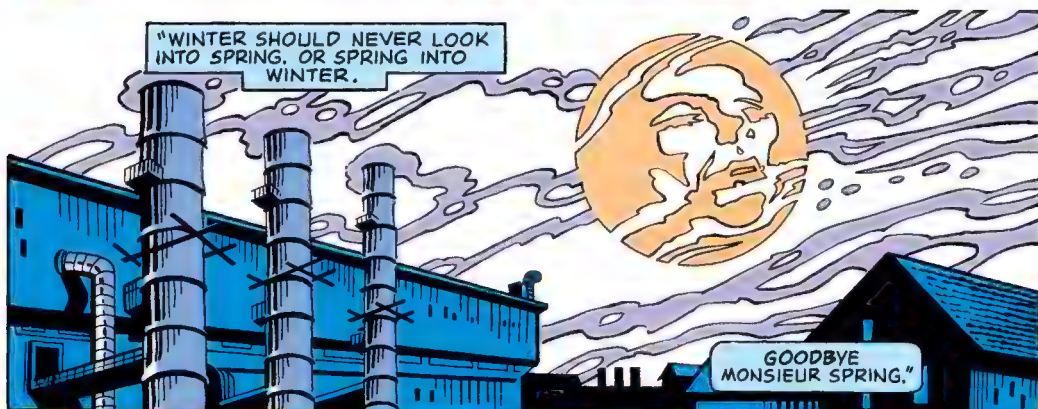


"WITH BREAKFAST, COME REVELATIONS..."







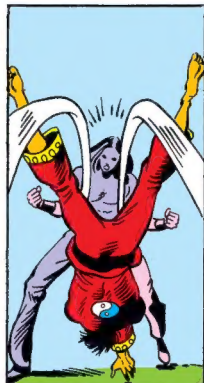


NEXT ISSUE: **A CITY, ASEA** FEATURING THE SURPRISE RETURN OF CHARACTERS YOU DEMANDED TO SEE!

MASTER OF KUNG FU PIN-UP GALLERY

BY DOUG MOENCH, MIKE ZECK
AND GENE DAY

"THE 'CHI' IS THE INNER
SPIRIT OF STRENGTH AND
WILL THROUGH WHICH
ALL EFFORTS FLOW...
AND FROM WHICH THE
IMPOSSIBLE BECOMES
POSSIBLE..."



"BUT THE IMPOSSIBLE IS MERELY A
DIVERSION TO THE 'CHI' -- WHOSE TRUE
PURPOSE LIES FAR BEYOND THE IMPOSSIBLE,
IN THE REALM OF UNIVERSAL HARMONY
AND TIMELESS TRANQUILITY. SHOULD THIS
REALM EVER BE ATTAINED, MY OWN 'CHI'
WILL BE ABLE TO RISE NO HIGHER,
ADVANCE NO FURTHER."



THE REDEMPTION OF LOST ART

"TRUE SERENITY, FOR ME, HAS BECOME A LOST ART, STOLEN BY THE CHAOS OF REALITY.

"ONCE, I WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE INNER YIN/YANG'S BALANCE BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS, PEACE AND VIOLENCE... BUT NOW THE OUTER WORLD'S DARKER SIDE HAS TIPPED THE SCALE, OBSESSING ME WITH VIOLENCE AND DRIVING ALL PEACE FROM MY SOUL -- UNTIL I WANT TO RAGE AND WAIL AGAINST THE MIDNIGHT WIND.

"AND SO I HAVE BEGUN TO LOOK INWARD ONCE AGAIN, SEEKING THE ART I HAVE LOST-- THE PRECIOUS ART OF SELFLESS NOBILITY, EFFORTLESS GRACE, TOLERANT ACCEPTANCE...

"IT WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT ALREADY SUCCESS BECKONS. ART IS NEVER EASY AND I SEEK NOTHING LESS THAN DETECTION AND FULFILLMENT OF ART IN LIFE, IN ALL OF LIFE'S MYRIAD SHIFTS AND MOMENTS, IN ALL OF LIFE'S FORMLESS FORM, EVEN IN ITS GRACELESS GRACE -- BEAUTY GLIMPSED IN UGLINESS AND SEIZED FROM PAIN...

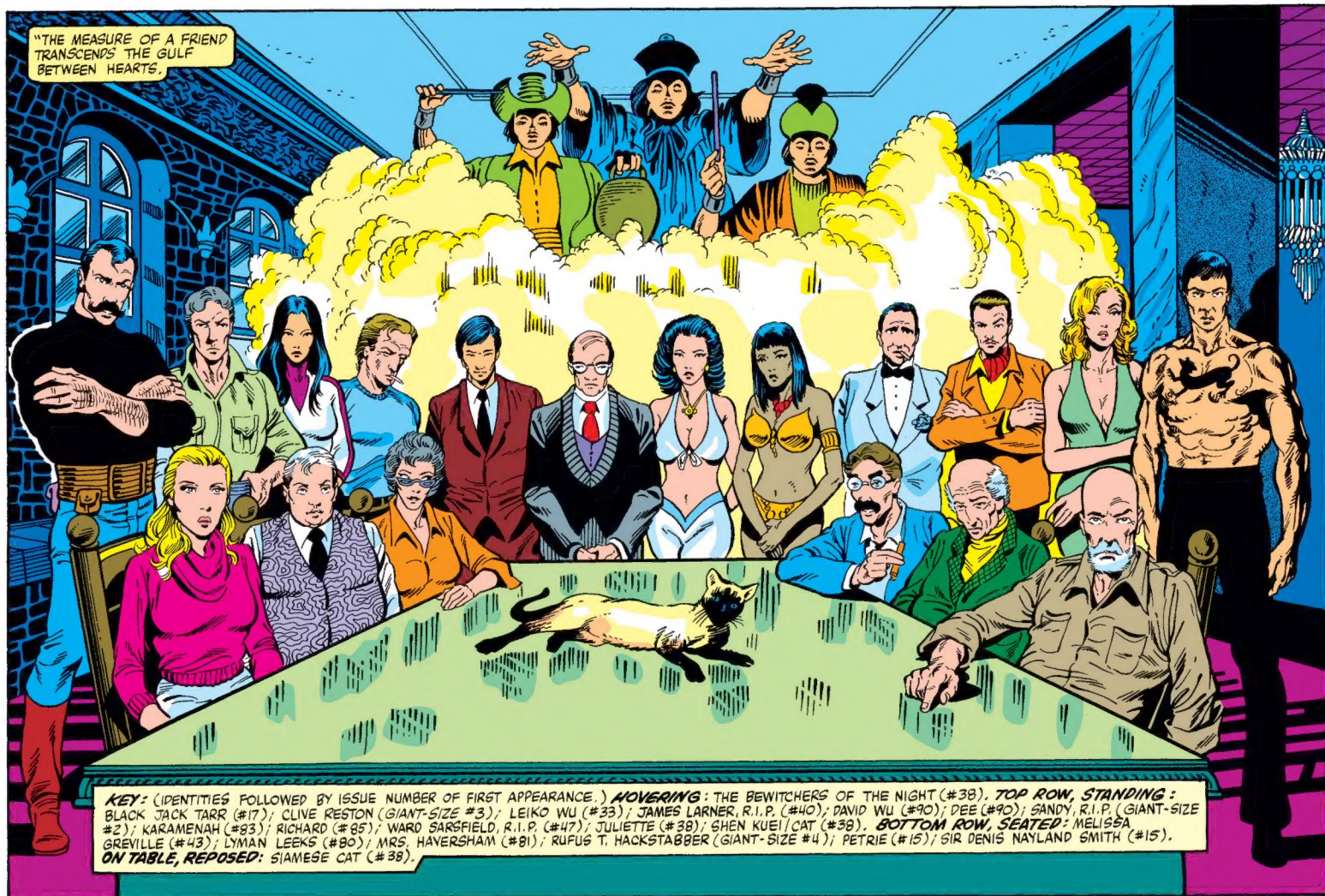
"I THINK I REALIZE THE ENORMITY OF THE QUEST-- FOR THE GREATEST ART OF ALL LIES IN THE TRIUMPH OVER A LOSS OF ART.

"I HAVE SUFFERED THAT LOSS...BITTERLY.

"BUT I WILL YET TRIUMPH.

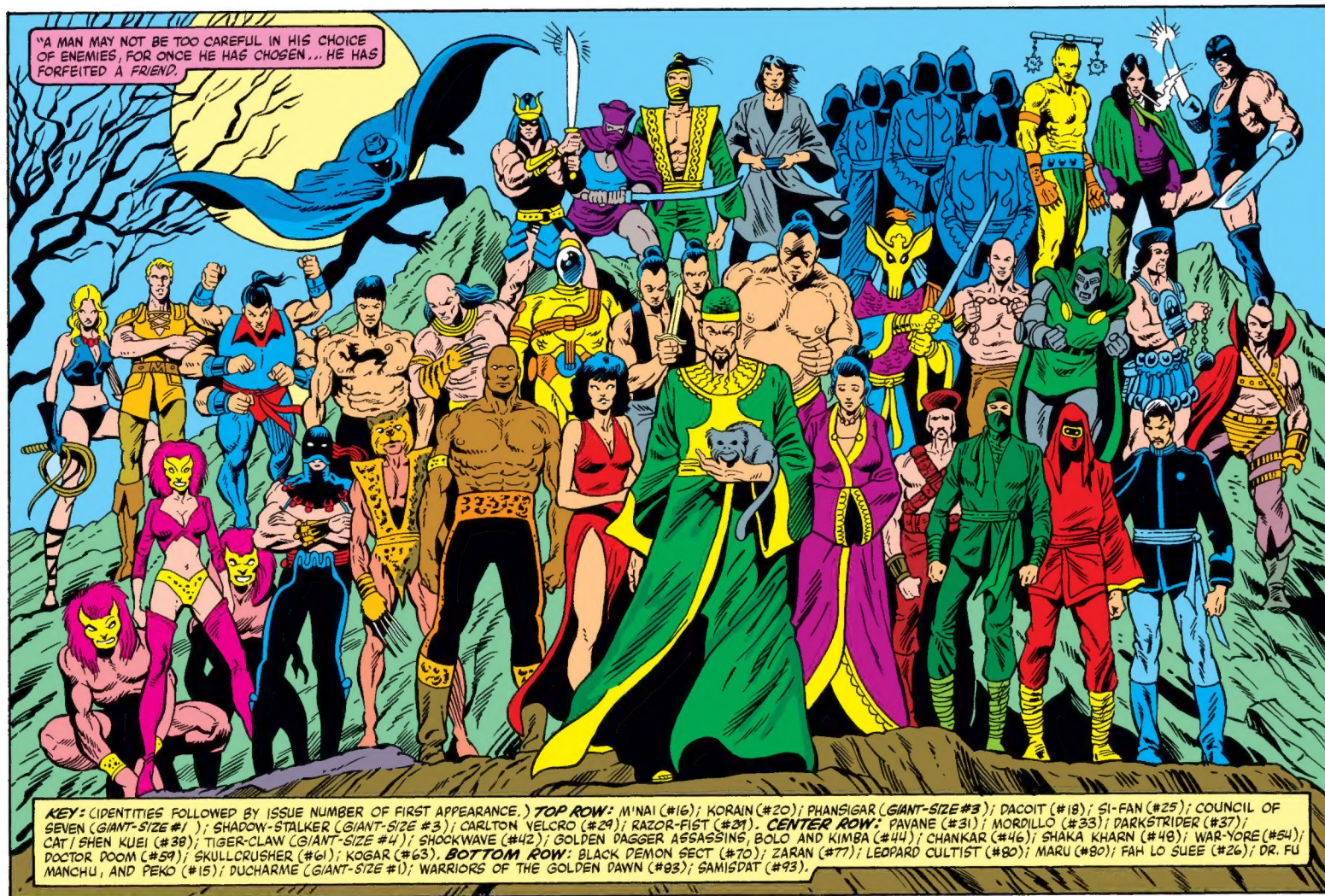


"THE MEASURE OF A FRIEND
TRANSCENDS THE GULF
BETWEEN HEARTS."



KEY: (IDENTITIES FOLLOWED BY ISSUE NUMBER OF FIRST APPEARANCE.) **HOVERING:** THE BEWITCHERS OF THE NIGHT (#38). **TOP ROW, STANDING:** BLACK JACK TARR (#17); CLIVE RESTON (GIANT-SIZE #3); LEIKO WU (#33); JAMES LARNER, R.I.P. (#40); DAVID WU (#90); DEE (#90); SANDY, R.I.P. (GIANT-SIZE #2); KARAMENAH (#93); RICHARD (#85); WARD SARSFIELD, R.I.P. (#47); JULIETTE (#38); SHEN KUEI/CAT (#38). **BOTTOM ROW, SEATED:** MELISSA GREVILLE (#43); LYMAN LEEKS (#80); MRS. HAVERSHAM (#81); RUFUS T. HACKSTABBER (GIANT-SIZE #4); PETRIE (#15); SIR DENIS NAYLAND SMITH (#15). **ON TABLE, REPOSED:** SIAMESE CAT (#38).

"A MAN MAY NOT BE TOO CAREFUL IN HIS CHOICE OF ENEMIES, FOR ONCE HE HAS CHOSEN... HE HAS FORFEITED A FRIEND."



KEY: (IDENTITIES FOLLOWED BY ISSUE NUMBER OF FIRST APPEARANCE.) **TOP ROW:** M'NAI (#16); KORAIN (#20); PHANSIGAR (GIANT-SIZE #3); DACOIT (#18); SI-FAN (#25); COUNCIL OF SEVEN (GIANT-SIZE #1); SHADOW-STALKER (GIANT-SIZE #3); CARLTON VELCRO (#29); RAZOR-FIST (#29). **CENTER ROW:** PAVANE (#31); MORDILLO (#33); DARKSTRIDER (#37); CAT / SHEN KUEI (#38); TIGER-CLAW (GIANT-SIZE #4); SHOCKWAVE (#42); GOLDEN DAGGER ASSASSINS, BOLO AND KIMBA (#44); CHANKAR (#46); SHAKA KHARN (#48); WAR-YORE (#54); DOCTOR DOOM (#59); SKULLCRUSHER (#61); KOGAR (#63). **BOTTOM ROW:** BLACK DEMON SECT (#70); ZARAN (#77); LEOPARD CULTIST (#80); MARU (#80); FAH LO SUEE (#26); DR. FU MANCHU, AND PEKO (#15); DUCHARME (GIANT-SIZE #1); WARRIORS OF THE GOLDEN DAWN (#83); SAMISDAT (#93).